

25. Cancelled

26. (Currently Amended) The tie rod end according to Claim 23, wherein said resilient ball member is fixedly attached to the outer surface of said ball stud with an adhesive.

REMARKS

This is in response to the outstanding Office Action, Paper No. 121504, dated December 22, 2004. Fig. 3 shows every feature of the invention specified in the claims as required under the rules of practice and is believed to clearly and unambiguously illustrate the invention in the most understandable manner. However, Fig. 3 is proposed to be amended by illustrating, in phantom, the upper portion (as viewed in Fig. 3) of the remote end 124A in the unassembled position. Paragraph 24 of the specification has been amended to more clearly define the invention as illustrated in Fig. 3.

Claims 6, 7, 16, 17, and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4, 10, 11, 20, 21, and 26 have been amended to correct the informalities identified by the Examiner. Claims 1, 5, 11, 13, 15, 21, 23, and 24 have been amended to obviate the Examiner's rejections. The claims now in the application are Claims 1 through 5, 8 through 15, 18 through 24, and 26. Favorable reconsideration of the application, and a Notice of Allowance, is respectfully requested.

Office Action Paragraphs 1 and 2

In the outstanding office action, the Examiner objected to paragraph 22 of the disclosure due to an informality. Applicants have amended paragraph 22 to delete the sentence objected to, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection to paragraph 22.

The Examiner further objected to Claims 4, 10, 11, 20, 21, and 26 due to informalities. Applicant's have amended Claims 4, 10, 11, 20, 21, and 26 as suggested by the Examiner, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection to Claims 4, 10, 11, 20, 21, and 26.

Office Action Paragraphs 3 and 4

In the outstanding office action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 through 5, 8 through 15, 18 through 24, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,061,110 to Wood, Jr. (Wood, Jr. '110). These rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the amended language of Claims 1, 13, and 23, which recite that a seamless housing has at least one opening and an inner chamber and a ball stud disposed in the chamber of the seamless housing.

Wood, Jr. '110 discloses a ball joint having a sheet metal socket that is at least partially formed in segments (68) separated by seams (80). As the Examiner clearly noted in paragraph 6 of the Office Action, Wood, Jr. '110 "discloses a ball joint including deformable housing segments 68 about one 34 of the pair of openings..." Wood, Jr. '110 further discloses that the plurality of gaps (66), which define a plurality of separate segments (68) are required to "provide clearance for the adjacent segments (68) to move radially toward the vertical axis (22) ... without interfering with each other, and without causing gathering or an increase in thickness of the sheet metal material." Thus, Wood, Jr. '110 does not show or suggest the claimed structure of a seamless housing, as specifically claimed. The claimed invention is therefore clearly patentable over Wood, Jr. '110. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Since Claim 1, 13, and 23 have been shown to be patentable over the cited reference, at least for this reason, Claims 2 through 5, 8 through 12, 14, 15, 18 through 22, 24, and 26 are also patentable.